

Report from the Government Access and Information Committee

Working Paper on Access Fees for Digital Graphic Files

Statement of Assumptions and Guiding Principles

- The City of Lincoln and Lancaster County believe they are stewards of their jurisdiction's data files. In that capacity, they have a responsibility for ensuring that access to such data is done in a manner that both balances and safeguards the interests of all members of the community. Such data files do have a value and ought not simply be given away.
- Within legal and statutory parameters, it is the desire and intent of the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County to make information available to the community by means of emerging technologies (i.e., digital format, "world-wide-web.")
- The City and County's near-term information release efforts should be focused on "geographic information systems" (GIS) graphic files.
- It is not the intent of the City and County to generate a "profit" from the sale of GIS files. Rather it is to ensure that the respective jurisdictions perform their proper role as stewards of the public's investment in GIS.
- The GIS files should be marketed at a fair and reasonable price, and in a fashion that creates minimal impact to the existing operations of contributing City and County agencies.
- In releasing GIS files, the City and County desire to maximize the value of the public's investment in this technology by creating opportunities for distribution and application in the private sector.

Public Access Policy and Fee Schedule

The balance of this document contains a work-in-progress description dealing with the establishment of an access policy and fee schedule for the public release of digital graphic files. The draft reflects the work of the GAIC over the past many months in examining a wide range of options for addressing this policy matter. This draft embodies the assumptions and concepts outlined above in defining a proposed access and fee policy.

Public Access Policy and Fee Schedule For City-County Geographic Information System (GIS)

The purpose of this narrative is to outline the conceptual framework for the development of a "Public Access Policy and Fee Schedule" related to digital graphic files from the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County Geographic Information System (GIS) project. The principal components of the policy and fee scheduled are described below. Continuing oversight of this program would rest with the City-County Geographic Information Systems Steering Committee, with periodic reports concerning the status of the policy made to the elected officials of the City and County.

A. General Public Access to CC-GIS Information

The City and County will maintain a WEB site (via InterLinc) containing GIS graphic files (i.e., maps) for general public access. These files will include maps of broad public interest with access provided on a read-only basis. This service will be made available at no charge to the user. The types of maps to reside on this site are listed on the attached display (Table 1).

B. Public Release Copies of CC-GIS Digital Files

The City and County will make available for purchase a selected inventory of digital graphic files. These digital files will be offered for sale as either "**restricted use**" or "**resale use**" files. Responsibility for coordinating the release of these digital graphic files will be handled through the [to-be-named-department.] Issues relating to available files formats, distribution medium, conditions of release and fee schedule are examined below.

1. Restricted Use Copies

The City and County will make available for restricted use a selected inventory of GIS digital graphic files. Purchasers will be required to sign a written agreement stated that the files are for their use only and will not be sold or otherwise provided in any form (original or altered) to other individuals, entities, or companies. Users would be required to sign a waiver stating that the City and County assume no liability in connection with the files.

These files will be available in ArcInfo Export (EOO), Microstation (DGN), or Drawing Exchange File (DXF) format. The files would be made available via an FTP site established and maintained by the City's Information Systems Department. All files would be in a NAD 83, modified County Grid projection series. The purchase fee would be \$10 or \$25 (plus tax) per file (see attached Table 2.) Should any additional staff time be required to prepare a file for release, an additional charge of \$50 per hour will be applied to the final billing. No subscription services would be offered.

2. Resale Use Copies

The City and County will make available for resale use a selected inventory of GIS digital graphic files. Purchasers will be allowed, under the conditions of a written licensing agreement, to sell or otherwise provide such files in original or altered form to other individuals, entities, or companies only for resale purchaser's own use (i.e., not for further resale.) Users would be required to sign a

Adopted CC (8.4.97) & CB (7.29.97)

waiver stating that the City and County assume no liability in connection with the files.

These files will be available in ArcInfo Export (E00), Microstation (DGN), or Drawing Exchange File (DXF) format. The files would be made available via an FTP site established and maintained by the City's Information Systems Department. All files would be in a NAD 83, modified County grid projection series. The purchase fee would be \$25 or \$50 (plus tax) per file (see attached Table 2.) Should any additional staff time be required to prepare a file for release, an additional charge of \$50 per hour will be applied to the final billing. No subscription services would be offered.

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Table 1
List of Example
General Public Access Files:
For "Read Only" Use at InterLinc Site

General Geographic Reference

- * Land base Sectional Plats
- * Cadastral Sectional Plats
- * Aerial Orthophotos (1 meter pixel resolution)
- * Address Base Maps (Annotated Addresses by Lot)

Natural Resources Base

- * Basin and Ridgeline Map for Lancaster County
- * Floodway and Floodplain Map
- * Streams Map

Land Use and Planning

- * Corporate Limits for Incorporated Jurisdictions within County
- * City of Lincoln Annexations from 1960
- * City of Lincoln and Lancaster County Long Range Land Use Plan
- * City of Lincoln and Lancaster County Zoning

Public Utilities

- * Lincoln Water System Utility Lines
- * Lincoln Wastewater Utility Lines
- * Lincoln Stormwater Lines
- * Rural Water District Boundaries

Transportation

- * Public Street System (Entire County)
- * Long Range Streets and Highway Plan
- * Beltway Study Area
- * Existing and Proposed Trails Network
- * Lincoln Municipal Airport
- * Lincoln Municipal Airport Noise Contours
- * Lincoln Municipal Airport Runway Protection Zones
- * Lancaster County Airport Locations
- * Major Rail Lines

Public Services

- * Lincoln City Libraries
- * Lincoln Fire Stations
- * Lancaster County Rural Fire District Boundaries

Capital Improvement Program (Current CIP by Department)